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The American School Peace League.

BY FANNIE FERN ANDREWS, SECRETARY.

The branch work of the American School Peace League has been unusually active during the past few months; and the effective way in which the branches are reaching the teachers of their respective states proves the correctness of the policy of the League in making the State Branch the unit of organization.

The Oklahoma State Teachers' Association gave over a whole session to the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Branch. The printed program designates this as the Department of American School Peace League. The program is so interesting, and suggestive for other State Branches holding annual meetings, that it is here given in full.

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN SCHOOL PEACE LEAGUE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 9.00 A. M.

CONVENTION HALL

MISS GERTRUDE E. MOTTER,
President Oklahoma Branch American School Peace League.
MISS MARY D. COUCH, Secretary.
L. J. ABBOTT, Chairman Board of Directors.

Song, "America" Audience
Invocation, Rev. Lee Rippey, St. Paul's M. E. Church, South
The History of Arbitration and Progress of Universal
Peace, County Superintendent E. B. Shotwell, Okmulgee
Practical Plans for Observance of Peace Day in Our Pub-
lic Schools Miss Myrtle Cranmer, Cherokee
Purpose and Plan of American School Peace League
Vice-President W. H. Wood, N. S. N., Alva
The Universal Brotherhood of Man and Cultivation of
Peace Sentiment Rev. E. D. Cameron Guthrie
Round Table Discussion
Conducted by Luther J. Abbott, Edmond
The United States and Its Relation to Spanish America; How
Our Attitude Should Make for Permanent Peace:

- (1) How Americans Look at Latin American Citizens Mr. Perry, Buffalo
- (2) United States and Its Relation to Mexico G. W. Derrick, Hammond
- (3) United States and Its Relation to Central America Miss Mary McCullough, Oklahoma City
- (4) The Secession of Panama; Can We As Americans De-
fend Our Attitude? A. G. Vinson, N. S. N., Alva
- (5) The Drago Doctrine Augustus Wox, Florence
- (6) The Christ of the Andes Mrs. Anna Stevens, Alva

Address

Prof. P. P. Claxton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Election of Officers and Completion of Organization.

Most of the addresses will be printed in the annual report of the Oklahoma Educational Association. The president and secretary for the ensuing year are Mr. L. J. Abbott, Edmond, Oklahoma, and Miss Alma Carson, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

The Maine State Branch held its annual meeting on the first day of the Maine State Teachers' Association. The announcement of the meeting, which was presided over by State Superintendent Payson Smith, was printed in the official program, and the meeting was largely attended. The Branch opened headquarters for the distribution of literature and personal interviews. Many new members joined, and plans were laid for the next annual meeting. The press not only gave an account of the meeting, but commented very favorably on the work of the League.

At the meeting of the Missouri State Teachers' Association, the organization of the Missouri Branch was completed. It will be remembered that a constitution for a Missouri Branch of the League was adopted by a meeting of the St. Louis teachers, which the secretary addressed in October. Mr. James M. Greenwood, superintendent of schools in Kansas City, Mo., is the president of the Branch.

The following report of the New Mexico Branch, written by the Secretary, Mr. John H. Vaughan, shows efficient work:

"The activities of the New Mexico Branch of the American School Peace League during the past year have taken two chief directions: first, a wide distribution of peace literature among teachers, preachers and newspapers in the territory; and, secondly, in having the work represented at many public meetings of teachers and others. Through the kindness of the secretary of the parent League funds have been furnished to pay postage and other expenses incident to this general work of publicity. Several thousand franked extracts from the *Congressional Record*, entitled 'International Arbitration and Peace' and the 'Mission of America in the Politics of the World,' have been sent out. These were furnished us by the courtesy of the Honorable Richard Bartholdt of Missouri.

"The work has been represented at the Pecos Valley Teachers' Association, the New Mexico Educational Association, and at teachers' institutes workers have generously helped. The *New Mexico Journal of Education* has given us space with great liberality. The Department of Education has included a peace day program in its book of programs for school anniversaries. The eighteenth of May has been observed in many of the schools. The peace movement has been discussed before a few clubs and literary societies. Three New Mexico high school students are now preparing essays for the peace prize contest. The Pecos Valley Teachers' Association and the New Mexico Educational Association, as bodies, have joined the New Mexico Branch of the League.

"For the coming year I believe that the most important work of our Branch is to secure more general observance of the eighteenth of May in the public schools, and to interest more generally literary societies and clubs in the choice field which the international movement offers for their work. And I wish to extend a very cordial invitation to all persons and organizations interested in the work to correspond with me or call on me for literature or information at any time."

The teachers of the First Congressional District of Kentucky organized a branch of the League in November, with Mr. A. J. Spacht, Principal High School, Princeton, Ky., as president, and Miss Emma Acker, Paducah, Ky., secretary and treasurer.

In December the Minnesota Branch was launched, with Mr. John W. Olsen, ex-Superintendent of Public Instruction, president, and Miss Ella Patterson of St. Paul, secretary. Miss Patterson reports much activity in the way of holding meetings. President Northrop of the University of Minnesota, the chairman of the board of directors of the Minnesota Branch, gave an inspiring address to his students and urged them to consider the subject in their debates and essays. Recently addresses have been

made by Miss Patterson to the Teachers' Federation in St. Paul and the Teachers' Club in Minneapolis.

The Nebraska Branch work is under the efficient direction of Mr. George E. Martin, Superintendent of Schools, Nebraska City. Mr. Martin is the president of the Superintendents and Principals' Association of Nebraska, and the officers of this association are the officers of the Nebraska Branch of the League.

At the time of the Montana State Teachers' Association in December a Montana Branch was organized, with Mrs. Lucy S. Railsback of Billings as president and John W. Curtis of Helena as secretary-treasurer. According to the interest manifested by the officers, Montana will be one of the leading States in the Peace League work.

Three secondary schools have organized Branches of the League: the Siloam Springs Branch, of Siloam Springs, Ark., organized in January; Baltimore City College Branch, of Baltimore, Md., organized on March 9; and the Westville High School Branch, of Westville, Okla., on March 13. The first and last are a part of the organization plan of the State Branches of Arkansas and Oklahoma respectively. The Baltimore City College Branch was organized through the enthusiasm of a few of the teachers and one or two students. The college has had two or three addresses on the general subject of internationalism, and remembers with pride that the first prize for the best essay written by secondary school pupils was won last year by one of its seniors, Stewart D. White. After the address by the Secretary of the League on March 3, the president of the college asked the president of the senior class to lead the students in a yell for peace, and this was done with a spontaneity that augurs enthusiastic activities in the Baltimore City College Branch.

One class in the Technical High School of Newton, Mass., where the Secretary of the League addressed the whole student body on January 18, has voted to become members of the League and has made a Peace League banner, which hangs in the schoolroom.

The Committee on Methods of the Massachusetts Branch has made out a course of study in moral training and civics, based on the international idea, for the first eight grades. It is the intention of the committee to print the course in separate pamphlets by grades. This committee consists of two members of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, a college professor of history, five well-known superintendents, two elementary school principals and a teacher of history in the Lowell Normal School.

Among some of the notable addresses recently given to schools is the one by Mr. Carleton B. Gibson, President of the Mechanics Institute in Rochester, at the commencement exercises of the Rochester East High School. Mr. Gibson, who is also a member of the committee on meetings and discussion of the League, chose for his commencement address the subject of international fraternalism.

On February 25 the Secretary of the League addressed the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association at Mobile, Ala. After this meeting the Secretary spent a week giving addresses in Baltimore and Washington. In Baltimore addresses were made before the colored high and normal school students, the

State Normal School, the City Training School, Baltimore City College, several hundred teachers of the seventh and eighth grades and the Arundel Club. In Washington addresses were given at the Western High School, the normal school and before the colored and white teachers, in separate audiences. The meeting at the normal school and the one composed of white teachers were presided over by Superintendent A. T. Stuart. At the meeting of the white teachers the constitution for a Washington, D. C., Branch of the League was adopted and a committee appointed to nominate officers. Much activity has been reported since this meeting.

Correspondence.

The Need of Suitable Literature for the Younger School Children.

Editor Advocate of Peace: When the Representative in Congress from my own district, a most sensible man on other subjects, in stating his reasons for voting in favor of fortifying the Panama Canal, gave "war as a race instinct that was sure to manifest itself in the future," and added that he thought "it would be as safe to predict future wars as to predict the sunrise in the morning," I felt a renewed conviction that the work of education for international peace is scarcely started, and that the Congressman's enlightenment should have begun in the public school.

The war instinct is not so deeply rooted, after all, as the determination to believe in the war instinct, and this must be overcome in the lower grades of school. It is not very difficult to find material for reading and study in the preparation of essays, debates and orations for those who are advanced enough to undertake such work; but I fear we are yet far from reaching either the pupil or the teacher of the grades below the upper high school in our supply of literature and school exercises. Children like song and marching and demonstration, and where the present methods and material are opposed to the new patriotism, we must furnish satisfactory substitutes before we can expect a change.

The love of heroism and bravery must not be discouraged, but a counter movement must be organized similar to that now started in England. The Boy Scout Movement is bound to work mischief if all diligence is not used to find a vigorous substitute. The late Professor James was not far from the truth in saying that "we must make new energies and hardihoods continue the manliness to which the military mind so faithfully clings."

Let us realize, also, the lack of suitable literature to place before the boys and girls. To-day, with libraries scattered all over our land, children read as they did not a few years ago. It is interesting to note what they select for reading. The boys, especially, never tire of such books as "A Sailor Boy with Dewey," "With Custer in the Black Hills," "With Flintlock and Fire," etc. We cannot displace such books in our public libraries without furnishing others as attractive. We must have something as good, something as stimulating to bravery and heroism. And here is a large field in connection with the New Internationalism, if writers of children's literature can be so directed.

It is true that we already have some books that answer to this need along some lines; such as Chapman's